

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 06319 041910Z

22

ACTION L-03

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DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 EB-07 AID-05 STR-04 OPIC-06

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECOSOC EGEN EFIN

SUBJECT: 61ST ECOSOC - AGENDA ITEM 13 - US PROPOSAL ON ILLICIT
PAYMENTS

REF: GENEVA 6273

1. ON AUGUST 4, THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE APPROVED WITHOUT VOTE THE RESOLUTION ON ILLICIT PAYMENTS CONTAINED IN L/590 (TRANSMITTED REFTEL). RESOLUTION WILL GO BEFORE THE PLENARY TOMORROW, AUGUST 5, AND IT IS NOT ANTICIPATED THAT THERE WILL BE ANY PROBLEMS.

2. FOLLOWING APPROVAL, CZECHOSLOVAKIA REP (ON BEHALF OF THE SOVIET BLOC) SAID THAT THEY SUPPORTED ALL EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE CORRUPT PRACTICES BY TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS AND THAT WORK ON THE MANDATORY CODE OF CONDUCT SHOULD BE GIVEN HIGHEST PRIORITY. HE SAID THAT THE SOVIET BLOC COUNTRIES CONSIDERED ILLICIT PAYMENTS TO BE ONLY ONE PART OF THE GENERAL PROBLEM OF CORRUPTION AND SAW NO NEED TO CREATE A NEW BODY TO WORK ON THIS; HOWEVER, THEY HAD AGREED NOT TO OBJECT TO THIS RESOLUTION SINCE

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PAGE 02 GENEVA 06319 041910Z

IT ENJOYED SUPPORT OF THE G-77. HE SAID THAT IF THERE HAD

BEEN A VOTE, THE SOVIET BLOC WOULD HAVE ABSTAINED. CUBAN REP FOLLOWED THE SAME LINE ADDING ONLY THAT CORRUPT PRACTICES BY TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS WILL DISAPPEAR ONLY WITH THE DISAPPEARANCE OF CAPITALISM ITSELF.

3. SUBSEQUENTLY WEO (UK, FRG, FRANCE, ITALY, JAPAN AND GREECE) AND G-77 (AFGHANISTAN, MEXICO, ARGENTINA, VENEZUELA, PERU, IRAN AND NIGERIA) REPS TOOK THE FLOOR TO SUPPORT THE RESOLUTION. IN THEIR STATEMENTS, THE G-77 SPOKESMAN MADE IT CLEAR THAT THEY ATTACHED PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE TO OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH THREE WHICH REAFFIRMS THAT THE FORMULATION OF A GENERAL CODE OF CONDUCT SHOULD BE GIVEN HIGHEST PRIORITY. US REP CLOSED GENERAL DEBATE WITH SHORT STATEMENT EXPRESSING OUR APPRECIATION FOR THE APPROVAL OF THIS INITIATIVE AND RECONFIRMING OUR COMMITMENT TO PARTICIPATE CONSTRUCTIVELY IN EFFORTS TO DEVELOP A CODE OF CONDUCT.

4. THE ONLY OPEN QUESTION NOW IS THE CONSTITUTION OF THE 18 MAN AD HOC INTER-GOVERNMENTAL WORKING GROUP. THE CONSENSUS AT THIS MORNING'S MEETING WAS THAT IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE TO SELECT THE WORKING GROUP DURING THIS SESSION OF ECOSOC AND THAT IT WILL HAVE TO BE DONE AT A RESUMED 61ST ECOSOC IN SEPTEMBER. IN THE INTERVAL, REGIONAL GROUPS ARE TO CONSULT AMONG EACH OTHER AND ADVISE THE ECOSOC PRESIDENT OF THEIR CHOICES. (COMMENT: IN THE COURSE OF THIS PROCESS, WE DOUBT THAT IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO LIMIT THE GROUP TO 18 AND ANTICIPATE THAT THE FINAL COMPROMISE TO BE WORKED OUT IN NY WILL INEVITABLY ENLARGE THE GROUP TO AT LEAST 27.) CATTO

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